



UNEP TUNZA SOUTH EAST ASIAN YOUTH ENVIRONMENT NETWORK (SEAYEN) REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

A SPECIAL REPORT ON THE UNEP TUNZA SEAYEN REGIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS 2013

Background

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) South East Asian Youth Environment Network (SEAYEN) was established to provide a regional platform for the youth representatives from ten ASEAN member nations to come together to brainstorm ideas, share experiences and establish close links through environmental sustainability and environmental related projects and activities. The UNEP SEAYEN is supported by the National Youth Achievement Award Council of Singapore that hosts the UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat and the UNEP Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP).

At the 6th UNEP TUNZA South East Asian Youth Environment Network (SEAYEN) Regional Meeting held in Bali, Indonesia, from 22 March to 27 March 2013, youth representatives and senior officials introduced many new initiatives for the region. NYAA Singapore also offers project funding for these initiatives through the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund administered by Singapore's National Youth Council.

Two major events were organised by the UNEP SEAYEN youth representatives as a result of the Bali meeting.

The 2nd Asia Pacific Leaders' Summit on Water 2013, Chiang Mai, Thailand

The 2nd Asia Pacific Leaders' Summit on Water was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand, from 19 to 20 May 2013 hosted by the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand. The theme for the Water Summit was "Water Security and Water-Related Disaster Challenges: Leadership and Commitment".

Prior to the Water Summit, senior officials and leaders from international agencies and media and technical experts from within and outside the region met to deliberate and discuss the importance of water security and water resources management under the guiding theme "Water Security and Water-Related Disaster Challenges". The meeting was held from 16 to 18 May



James Soh, Advisor, UNEP SEAYEN, addressing the ASEAN+3 Future Leaders for Water at the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT), Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand, Doi Inthanon National Park in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

2013 at the National Astronomical Research Institute of Thailand (NARIT), Ministry of Science and Technology of Thailand, Doi Inthanon National Park, Chiang Mai, Thailand, ahead of the Leaders' Summit attended by Heads of State and Government as well as Ministers from the Asia Pacific Region.



ASEAN Youth Representatives with H.E. Dr Prodrasad Surasawadi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, at the Chiang Mai Convention Centre.



ASEAN + 3 Youth Representatives with Mr Soh at NARIT, Chiang Mai, Thailand.



ASEAN Youth Delegates conducting an outdoor water testing project in Chiang Mai, Thailand.



Singapore Youth Representatives with H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Singapore's Minister for the Environment and Water Resources, and Mr Soh during the 2nd Asia Pacific Leaders' Summit on Water in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

James Soh, Executive Director and Advisor, UNEP SEAYEN, and Aileen Yap, Deputy Executive Director and Advisor, UNEP SEAYEN, led a 35 member strong group of Youth Representatives from ASEAN+3 (People's Republic of China, Korea and Japan), including two observers from India and Kazakhstan, to attend the Summit in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

After a full week of deliberation and discussion among the youth representatives, senior officials and experts at NARIT, the youth representatives concluded with a Youth Statement on Water to be presented to the Government of Thailand, which was the host of the Regional Forum. The UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives also had the opportunity to discuss various water issues with Dr Prodprasob Surasawadi, Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand, who is responsible for the Water Management Fund of Thailand.



Youth Delegates at the 2nd Asia Pacific Youth Parliament for Water 2013 in Seoul, Korea

The event was hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, Korean Water Forum and the National Assembly Environment Forum.

The 13th Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum 2013, Singapore

The UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives from Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines attended the 13th Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum held at the PUB WaterHub, Learning Oasis Conference Room, in Singapore on 23 July 2013.



UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives at the ASEAN + 3 Meeting at NARIT, Chiang Mai.

The participation of the UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives, representatives from the People's Republic of China, Korea, Japan, and two observers from India and Kazakhstan was made possible with the support and funding from the Singapore-ASEAN Youth Fund and Asian Development Bank through the goodwill of NYAA Singapore.

2nd Asia Pacific Youth Parliament for Water 2013, Seoul, Korea

18 UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives attended the Asia Pacific Youth Parliament for Water held in Seoul, Korea, from 3 to 6 July 2013. The event provided youth leaders with a voice, encouraged them to offer solutions to water challenges, and simulated congressional action. Youth leaders also gained awareness of global and regional problems and learned how to grapple with them.



The 13th Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum 2013 in Singapore



UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives with water experts during the 13th Governing Council Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum.

The meeting provided UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives with a better understanding of the workings of the Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum and its framework of

action. Youth Representatives also participated in the discussion on the Asia-Pacific Water Futures and focus and activities over the next two years. UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat is very grateful to the Governing Council of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum for providing the UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives with an opportunity to learn more about the work of APWF.

ASEAN Water Dialogue Conference 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

In support of the ASEAN Water Dialogue Conference, UNEP SEAYEN, in partnership with the Asian Development Bank, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the Royal Thai Government Department of Water Resources, engaged 40 young water leaders from ASEAN as an integral part of the dialogue on water security in the region. From planning, resource-mobilisation and organising, UNEP SEAYEN youth leaders took prominent roles in the preparation of the ASEAN Water Dialogue Conference held in Bangkok from 25 to 27 September 2013. The AWDC has succeeded in raising awareness of youth's role in water security in the region and enhancing inter-generational partnerships between youth and ASEAN, government, international agencies and civil society organisations.



Delegates at the ASEAN Water Dialogue Conference 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.



Youth delegates from UNEP SEAYEN brainstorming possible solutions to water issues in the region.

The AWDC 2013 also provided UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives with the opportunity and platform to support the implementation of youth commitments, such as the Chiang Mai Youth Declaration and the 2nd Asia Pacific Youth Parliament for Water Declaration.

UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat is proud that the youth representatives have taken a proactive leadership role in supporting the various initiatives led by both government and non-governmental organisations.

Proposed Regional Youth Projects

UNEP SEAYEN Haze Mitigating Youth Project



Location map of the haze affected areas in South East Asian region.

Each year, three ASEAN member nations are affected by the haze which is caused by open burning to clear land for agriculture in the Riau, Sumatra, Indonesia. Countries affected by the haze include Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, where the PSI Index hit a very unhealthy level.

This issue prompted the UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, with the support of Youth Representatives from Thailand, Philippines and Brunei, to come together to find possible solutions in mitigating the haze issue by raising awareness among youth on haze and its effects on the health of citizens in the affected countries and its impact on the economy.

Youth programmes include education on the environment and haze problem, eco-entrepreneurship projects to reduce burning and public education programmes for farmers and their families.

A proposal has been submitted to the UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat for consideration.



UNEP SEAYEN Youth Leaders distributing masks to the elderly affected by the haze in Singapore.

Kampong Ayer Waste Management Using Skimmer Concept, Brunei Darussalam

The skimmer concept was introduced by the Youth Representatives of Brunei Darussalam as an innovation to keep the riverine in the water villages of Brunei clean. Kampong Ayer has always been symbolic and regarded as one of the landmarks of Brunei Darussalam. Several villages make up 'Kampong Ayer', which developed as a tourist destination such as Berembang Island and Pulau Muara Besar.



The riverine in the water villages in Brunei Darussalam.

The UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives from Brunei will work closely with their ASEAN youth counterparts to embark on a project to use skimmer to collect rubbish and trash from the river system and keep the river clean from pollution.

The proposed strategy is to form a public-private partnership together with youth volunteers and to empower the local villagers to take up the responsibility of keeping the river clean. The schools in Kampong Ayer can support the initiative by organising community service projects to help skim the river periodically.

The proposed project has been submitted to the UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat for consideration.



Youth volunteers embarking on water related projects at Kampong Ayer, Brunei Darussalam.

Eco-Friendly Project at Public Housing Estate, Singapore

UNEP SEAYEN Youth Representatives from Singapore will spearhead an initiative to change all the existing lighting in more than 20 households in Tampines Central including their water devices in their kitchens and bathrooms for the first phase of the pilot project in November 2013.

Engineering student volunteers from the ITE College East will be trained and will change all the existing lighting to energy saving lighting as part of their effort to mitigate climate change. The team will conduct a review on the pilot project before embarking on a larger scale in 2014.



The Eco-Friendly Tampines Central Project initiated by youth volunteers.

UNEP SEAYEN Self Video Contest 2013

The UNEP SEAYEN Self Video Contest 2013 organised by the Youth Representatives aims to promote water issues by sending short messages generated by young people in ASEAN member nations. In order to raise the level of awareness among young people on water issues, the organiser encourages contestants to send their messages via social media.



The contestants are allowed to use their own cameras and smartphones to capture short clips up to one minute long highlighting water issues. The message can be in English or the contestant's own language. The organiser will compile all the messages submitted into a video bringing together the voices of the youth in ASEAN on water issues. Submission of video messages is open between 15 October and 30 November 2013. Voting for the best video message will be held between 1 and 15 December 2013. The winner of the Self Video Contest 2013 will be invited to Singapore for the Singapore International Water Week 2014 which will be held at Marina Bay Sands Expo and Convention Centre from 1 to 5 June 2014.

This special report on UNEP TUNZA SEAYEN Regional Activities and Projects is compiled and published by the UNEP SEAYEN Secretariat

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